



The Manitowoc Progressive

The Voice of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party

www.mantydem.com

Join or Renew Membership On the Web

June 2009

MantyDems June Meeting

— Public Invited —

**Monday, June 22nd 7:00 PM
Gotham City
902 York St. – Manitowoc**

Women's Issues in Politics

Presented by
Keeley Crowley



Keeley Crowley currently serves as the President of the WI Business and Professional Women (BPW), an organization that strives to achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information. Keeley is a member of Manitowoc-Two Rivers BPW and also served two years as President of her local organization.

A graduate of Manitowoc Lutheran High School, Keeley holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Service Administration with an emphasis on government and non-profit service from Silver Lake College. Professionally, Keeley is the Coordinator of Holy Family Memorial's Sexual Assault Resource Center in Manitowoc. She serves on the Board of Directors of the WI Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the advisory board of the Access and Visitation Center, is Recording Secretary for the Manitowoc Police Department's Crime Prevention Committee, and is a Big Sister with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

In 2000, Keeley received the Voices of Courage Award from the WI Coalition Against Sexual Assault for excellence in survivor advocacy. She was also recently honored with the Chamber of Manitowoc County's 2009 Athena Award, an award given annually to an outstanding woman in the community for community service and involvement. Earlier this year she was also recognized as one of Manitowoc County's "40 Under 40."

Drug Treatment Court – A New Way to Handle Drug/Alcohol Offenders

By Darlene Wellner

The first Drug Treatment Court was established in Miami (Dade County), Florida in 1989 when judges there decided they were constantly seeing repeat drug and alcohol offenders. Stricter penalties and sentences for alcohol and drug offenses had no impact. Looking for a different way to bring more positive outcomes, the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) was born. It offered a non-adversarial option to a system that had once solely relied on punitive approaches to addiction to drugs and/or alcohol.

The DTC is essentially a treatment program overseen by a court. It is a specialized court designed to handle cases involving offenders who abuse addictive substances. The judges (usually one particular judge), district attorney, public defenders, probation and parole officers, treatment service providers, law enforcement, and county executive work together to help participants break the addiction cycle.

DTCs currently exist in at least 14 counties in Wisconsin. They offer offenders charged with crimes of driving under the influence of alcohol, possession of controlled substances, or drug using offenders charged with a non-drug related crime the option of entering the DTC program instead of a jail sentence. Participation is voluntary and violent offenders are excluded from the program. Offenders must plead guilty to the charge and agree to a rigorous treatment program including:

- Regular drug screenings
- Alcohol/drug counseling
- Regular appearances before the judge.

The program lasts 12-15 months, ending with a graduation ceremony. Offenders who fail to comply with the program's requirements may be sanctioned with 1-2 days in jail. If non-compliance is severe, participants may be removed from the program and returned to the regular criminal justice process for adjudication and sentencing. However, if they complete the DTC program, charges against them are dropped. →

Why is this system more successful?

- This approach holds participants accountable to the court, at the same time offering support, encouragement and treatment services.
- It has high expectations of its participants offering them opportunities to build on their strengths, moving them to recovery and changes in their lifestyle.

While all the stakeholders in the criminal justice system have a role in making this program work, two individuals are key for its success – the Judge and the Program Manager – who work closely together.

The Program Manager (a position that requires background experience in the criminal justice system and knowledge of addictive behaviors) sees participants on a regular basis, gathers information on their progress, tracks attendance of counseling sessions, drug testing appointments, and reports participant’s progress (or setbacks) to the judge prior to the participant’s court appearance.

On Drug Court ‘Day’ the Program Manager, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors, and any other appropriate contributors meet for about 45 minutes to an hour with the Judge, reporting from the records what has transpired with each participant since their last court appearance. Discussion and review of each participant includes family life, job-living-education-medical needs, community service, as well as possible infractions of sobriety. During this time frame, participants wait in the court room until their turn to appear before the ‘robed’ Judge for an average of 8-10 minutes. They report on their status since their last appearance. The Judge then comments on the written and verbal reports of the Program Manager and other contributors, giving compliments if deserved - or reprimands for behavioral infrac-

tions, sometimes including 1-2 days in jail. Successful participants may receive periodic certifications for their progress, until completion of the program and graduation.

The establishment of a DTC begins when the stakeholders of a county’s criminal justice system realize and agree that a punitive-only system fails to meet the needs of the community, both in the number of repeat offenders and the high costs of incarceration. In part, this process includes educating not only those persons directly involved in the criminal justice system but also the public-at-large. Unfortunately, persuasion in establishing a DTC rests heavily on the cost savings the program brings to a community, rather than the actual benefits to person, family and community when a participant becomes drug or alcohol free.



Costs and other facts

- 80% of all criminal cases involve alcohol / drugs.
- Addicted offenders make up the largest share of our jail and prison populations
- Jail cost ranges from \$50-55 per day (about \$18000-\$20000 per year) – with minimal or no treatment options provided
- Prison costs average \$28,000 per year – with minimal or no treatment options provided
- Wisconsin Department of Corrections budget exceeds \$1 Billion per year and suffers from a shortage of probation and parole agents
- DTC costs \$8,000 per year per participant.

Funding sources may include:

- US Department of Justice Plan-

ning Grants

- Office of Justice Assistance Start-up Grants
- County funding
- Foundation gifts

Counties currently running DTCs have found savings incurred in jail and prison costs significantly outweigh the costs of running a DTC Program.

And the Benefits:

LaCrosse County reports these results realizing a safer community for all:

- Family reunification
- Participants stay drug-free / sober
- Savings in county jail costs
- Lower recidivism rates
- Lower crime rates
- Fewer drug addicted babies born

Progress in Manitowoc County

The League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County conducted a two year DTC study (2008) and came to a membership consensus favoring the establishment of a DTC program in Manitowoc County. In an effort to share information gleaned from this study, copies were distributed to all Judges, the District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Corrections Officers, County Executive, all Co. Board members, Corporate Counsel, treatment providers, and area news media. Discussions have been held with all of these stakeholders resulting in agreement that a DTC could well serve Manitowoc County. *All are ‘tired’ of the revolving door.*

It is expected a planning group led by the Judges of Manitowoc County will be formed moving to establish a DTC Program in Manitowoc County. Your encouragement to those involved in the decision making process is needed to bring this to fruition. Help move Manitowoc County towards a more progressive form of criminal justice, reducing drug/alcohol related crimes and creating a more ‘sober’ and productive population. □

Bullets

Nan Hallock, Chair

chair@mantydem.com

920-652-0016

- All three of MantyDems' resolutions were adopted by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin:
 - Public Funding of Supreme Court and other Judiciary Elections
 - Ban of Chapter 527 (soft money) in all judiciary elections
 - Voting Rights for Non-Incarcerated Felons.

The last resolution was heavily debated. It received strong support not only from Darlene Wellner (resolution author) but from Rene Crawford (ACLU) and Senator Lena Taylor. Taylor announced that she would be introducing legislation allowing Non-Incarcerated Felon Voting and welcomed the support of the Democratic Party. Both Crawford and Taylor made a personal visit to the 6th CD delegates to thank them for bringing the resolution before the Convention – we directed them straight to Darlene. *Well done Darlene!* Be on the alert to support this legislation when it comes before the Senate.

Manitowoc was represented by Nan Hallock, Kate Schuette, Bob Jome, Ann and Myron Halla, Jim Rabata, Kerry Trask and Darlene Wellner.

Below are the DPW officers elected by unanimous ballot at 2009 State Convention:

Chair - Mike Tate At 30, Tate is the nation's youngest state chair in either party. Tate is a veteran Democratic Party activist with more than 12 years of experience working for numerous political organizations and campaigns.

1st Vice Chair - Melissa Schroeder of Merrill, is a member of the Democratic National Committee and a congressional aide to U.S. Rep. Dave Obey.

2nd Vice Chair - Jef Hall of Oshkosh, is an IT consultant and leader on the Winnebago Co. Board of Supervisors.

Treasurer - Michael Childers is a Madeline Island realtor and has served as a financial officer for many progressive candidates and organizations.

Secretary - Angela Sutkiewicz is a Sheboygan attorney and longtime Party activist.

- Kathie Fishbeck will be organizing the **County Fair Booth**. Please contact her if you can help set-up/tear-down/ or 'man' the booth. kathleenfishbeck@comcast.net (920) 629-7979
- **Think Tank** will reconvene (July 11th) after a brief hiatus to make time for the State Convention. Second Saturday of each month. 9:30 am at the UU's. Newcomers always welcome. *Watch for venue change as UU's move to Park Street.*
- Join **AFSCME** members at their annual **Pig Roast**. Lincoln Park Cabin 2. Tuesday, July 21st. 5:30 PM till closing. \$15 per person – advance sales only. For tickets contact Laurie Burke at 920-793-1497.
- **July Membership Meeting** will focus on planning for 2010. Discussion will focus on candidate recruitment, fundraising and general direction for membership meetings. Please plan to attend this important meeting. We need everyone's input. Monday, July 27th.



Manitowoc Public Schools

See insert for brief review of Superintendent Mark Swanson's presentation at the last MantyDems meeting.

2010 Candidates

Contact information:

US Senator Russ Feingold
www.russfeingold.org

Field Directory – Paula Zellner
zellner@russfeingold.org
715-735-7811



REAGANOMICS

"We told them the wealth would 'trickle down!'"

The Manitowoc Progressive

The Voice of the Manitowoc Democratic Party
PO Box 1373
Manitowoc WI 54221-1373

Calendar of Events

- Mon, Jun 22nd** **Membership Meeting**
Keeley Crowley presenting on Women's Issues
7:00 PM - Gotham City – 902 York St - Manitowoc
- Mon, Jul 6th** **Executive Committee Meeting**
- Sat, Jul 11th** **Think Tank - Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**
North 8th Street, Manitowoc – Note: Watch for venue change.
UU's are moving to Park Street, formerly the Christian Science Church.
- Tues, Jul 21st** **AFSME Manitowoc County PEOPLE Pig Roast.**
Contact Myron Halla for tickets or call Laurie Burke 920-793-1497
- Mon, Jul 27th** **Membership Meeting**
- Mon, Aug 3rd** **Executive Committee Meeting**
- Mon, Aug 24** **Membership Meeting**
- Aug 25-30th** **Manitowoc County Fair**
- Tue, Sep 8th** **Executive Committee Meeting**

MantyDems Officers

Nan Hallock
Chair

nanhallock@sbcglobal.net
chair@mantydem.com
920-652-0016

Kathie Fishbeck
1st Vice Chair / Membership
kathleenfishbeck@comcast.net

Ted Zigmunt
2nd Vice Chair
tzigmunt@yahoo.com

Kate Schuette
Secretary / Newsletter Editor
kschuette@tds.net

Bob Jome
Treasurer
rjome@sbcglobal.net

Phil Knier
Past Chair
pknier@mcleodusa.net

Yes, I'll Join the Party and Help Democrats Win!

Mail to: Democratic Party of Wisconsin ▪ 110 King Street ▪ Suite 203 ▪ Madison WI 53703

Fees include membership to both the State and County Parties.

Name/s _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Employer _____

Employer Address _____

Occupation _____

\$1,200 Investor* \$45 Activist

\$1,200 Investor* \$35 Pairs

\$600 Patron* \$25 General

\$240 Friends* \$10 Senior/Student

\$120 Supporter* \$10 Limited Income

\$75 Family* Other _____

*includes all family members

Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions, in the aggregate, exceed \$200 in an election cycle. Please provide all information on the membership form.